An aspiring journalist should gain experience, building relationships, and testing career choices through internships. Students should develop a portfolio of creative materials related to career goals.

Demonstrate enthusiasm, interpersonal skills, team work, integrity, good judgment, and intelligence as well as developing excellent writing and grammar skills. Seek skills and experiences in different and "not your typical" areas to qualify for a wider range of opportunities. Be prepared to begin a journalism career in a small market, perform writing tasks, before moving to larger markets and positions with more creative freedom and responsibility. Minoring in business administration, political science, technical communication, natural or social sciences, sport management, cinema studies, or other media may provide greater job opportunities and complement the major.

As the industry is tightening, applicants who have experience in a niche market, (e.g., religious publishing, or outstanding technical skills), will be more competitive. Journalism is good preparation for graduate programs in communication, law, political science, and other fields that require strong writing skills. Pick electives in a variety of subjects as you may be asked to cover stories on many topics.

Develop a strong background in photography, as that component is becoming more prevalent. Reporting and familiarize yourself with the on-the-go mobile video and audio applications to effectively communicate live updates. Finally, stay up to

**AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY**

- Reporting
- Editorial/column writing
- Feature writing
- Investigative journalism
- Sport
- Online journalism
- Photo journalism
- Editing
- Marketing/promotion
- Production
- Writing
- Advertising/sales
- Promotion
- Circulation
- Design, layout, and production
- Investigative journalism
- Photo journalism
- Subsidiary rights
- Freelance writing

**COMMON EMPLOYERS:**
- Large circulation newspapers
- Local newspapers: Dailies, Weeklies, Specialized newspapers
- Wire services
- Trade publications
- Consumer magazines
- Consumer magazines
- Specialized magazines
- Technical and industrial publications
- Professional publications, associations
- Lloyd's Register
- Academic journals
- Online in-house publications

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**
- American Journalism Review
- American Medical Writers Association
- American Society of Journalists and Authors
- American Society of Media Photographers
- American Society of Newspaper Editors
- American Journalism Review
- American Society of Newspaper Economics
- Investigative Reporters and Editors
- Magazine Publishers of America
- Newspaper Association of America
- National Press Photographers Association
- Newspaper Association of America
- Online News Association
- Society for Technical Communication
- Society of Professional Journalists

**STRAATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD:**
- Obtain an internship or part-time job with a newspaper.
- Work with a college newspaper, yearbook, or alumni publication.
- Take on active roles, preferably leadership, in journalism organizations.
- Demonstrate curiosity, high energy level, and the abilities to produce under pressure and withstand criticism.
- Complete an internship with a publisher.
- Seek experience with on-campus or community publications.
- Find a part-time or summer job with a newspaper, magazine, or print shop.
- Obtain sales experience.
- Develop computer and writing skills. Learn to think critically.
- Create a portfolio of writing samples, especially those that have been published.
- Seek opportunities for recognition and networking through writing contests and freelance writing opportunities.
- Build relationships with campus and community leaders and athletics for interview opportunities and experience.

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